



Fw: BoS hearing August 27, 2013, Item #13

Cytasha Campa to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder,
BOS_Legislative Assistants Only

08/23/2013 08:28 AM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/23/2013 08:27 AM -----

From: "Sue Luft" <sluft@wildblue.net>
To: "Bruce Gibson - Supervisor" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "Debbie Arnold - Supervisor" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "Frank Mecham - Supervisor" <fmeccham@co.slo.ca.us>, "Adam Hill - Supervisor" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: <boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>, "Cytasha Campa" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/22/2013 10:48 PM
Subject: BoS hearing August 27, 2013, Item #13

Chair Gibson
Supervisor Arnold
Supervisor Mecham
Supervisor Hill

Re: Interim urgency ordinance in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Supervisors,

Please find attached comments from PRO Water Equity, Inc. for your consideration.

Thanks,

Sue Luft



President, PRO Water Equity, Inc.

Comments re Interim Ordinance - 8-22-13.pdf

PRO Water Equity, Inc.

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Overliers for Water Equity

www.prowaterequity.org
info.prowaterequity@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/ProWaterEquity
P.O. Box 255, Templeton, CA 93465

August 22, 2013

Chair Bruce Gibson
Supervisor Debbie Arnold
Supervisor Frank Mecham
Supervisor Adam Hill

Via email: BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us

Re: Interim urgency ordinance in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Chair Gibson and Supervisors,

PRO Water Equity, Inc. is a diverse all-volunteer coalition of Paso Robles Groundwater Basin users who believe in finding a fair way of sharing the groundwater that belongs to all of us. We are supported by winery and vineyard owners, olive growers, other agriculturalists and many rural residents who overlie the basin.

As stakeholders, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the development of the proposed interim ordinance for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. We are providing some information for your consideration during your deliberations on August 27th.

The interim urgency ordinance that you are considering may place a moratorium on new ponds, reservoirs and dams constructed to "regulate or store a supply of water for frost protection, seasonal irrigation, or livestock purpose", unless specifically exempt.

The agricultural reservoirs that are currently being proposed and/or constructed for vineyard operations are not being used entirely for frost protection. Many of the ponds are being used for irrigation management, which may include the mixing of water from several wells on the agricultural property. If some of those wells contain poor quality water, these reservoirs can make use of that poor quality water possible.

Due to the current vineyard planting frenzy in our area and the declining groundwater levels, some new wells are being drilled below the Paso Robles Formation into the underlying Santa Margarita Formation or the Monterey Shale. One drilling firm has recently brought a reverse-rotary drilling rig into the area with the capability to drill much deeper than our local drillers can.

These deeper wells can cause a number of significant concerns. If the wells are screened through both good quality and poor quality zones, they can allow intermixing of fluids and potential degradation of the higher quality zones. Also, as the water is extracted from these deeper zones, fluids will be drawn in from other locations. In the case of the Santa Margarita Formation, the formation may be recharged by draining from the overlying Paso Robles Formation and/or by upward-vertical gradient from the underlying Monterey Formation, which is likely to be of very poor quality at that depth.

Based on the USGS studies of these deeper zones, these waters can contain high H₂S, boron, sodium, and chloride. These constituents are harmful to human health and agricultural crops, particularly grapevines. Water quality data from these deep wells should be obtained and evaluated. In particular, water produced from new wells that did not fall under the Agricultural Order should be analyzed for the applicable constituents.

The use of agricultural reservoirs for mixing of these poor quality waters may result in contamination of the fresh water zones by leakage from these ponds. Their use also encourages the practice of deep drilling into poor quality zones.

Your Board will also be considering a moratorium on new wells (excluding replacement wells) on August 27th. Besides limiting additional water uses until the basin can be properly managed, the moratorium is of particular importance in order to get a handle on this potentially dangerous drilling practice.

We understand that the well depth and screened interval information is not always being provided on the Well Drillers' Reports. If that is the case, the County should take enforcement action against that drilling firm. This is an unacceptable situation. Environmental Health not only needs this information, but should be using this information to restrict harmful drilling practices, particularly drilling into these deeper formations.

We ask that you adopt the interim urgency ordinance, including the moratorium on new ponds and new wells (except replacement wells) on August 27th. We also request that you take such additional actions as needed to protect public health and water quality.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

PRO Water Equity, Inc. Directors

Sue Luft, President
Nat Sherrill, Vice President
Jan Seals, Treasurer
CC Coats, Secretary
Dianne Jackson, Director
Lindsay Pera, Director
Maria Lorca, Director



Fw: email of record for Aug. 27 BoS hearing

Board of Supervisors to: BOS_Legislative Assistants,
cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/23/2013 01:29 PM

Sent by: **Fran Zohns**

----- Forwarded by Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO on 08/23/2013 01:29 PM -----

From: Lisa Lundy <llundy@specialtyconstruction.com>
To: "BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/23/2013 01:23 PM
Subject: email of record for Aug. 27 BoS hearing

To the members of the Board of Superintendents;

This email is a plea to ask that you act swiftly to adopt a urgent temporary ordinance to help protect the water basin and the residents of the overlaying water basin area. North county is in a desperate situation of a water crisis. I believe some "band-aid" measures to somewhat alleviate the overuse of the water basin by large agriculture (vineyard) ventures could include, no new well permits domestic & agriculture issued for a period of time, meter large agriculture well pumps to help gain more accurate measure of what is actually being pumped out for irrigation purposes, stop the mass planting of vineyard on unused acreage, allocate a measure by acreage of water that may be used for irrigation during growing and dormant seasons, penalize the wreck less over usage of well water for irrigation purposes and eliminate open water reservoir ponds. There are many small actions if applied could help towards getting the water basin issue under control. I am a north county resident who has experienced a large decline of 85 feet in my well water level in the past 10 years. Please take the time to examine the factual reports of the water decline and listen to those residents who are and have experienced severe water issues.

Thank you for opportunity to express my views.

Lisa Lundy

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PR Groundwater Basin - Urgency Ordinance 8-27-13

David Broadwater

to:

darnold, fmecham, bgibson, ahill

08/23/2013 02:26 PM

Cc:

cr_board_clerk

Hide Details

From: David Broadwater <csi@thegrid.net>

To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us

Cc: cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us

SLO County Board of Supervisors

re: 8-27-13 - Agenda Item #13

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance

Basin-Wide Ordinance

I emphatically urge you to adopt the Basin-Wide Urgency Ordinance as set forth in Attachment 2A of the Planning Department's Staff Report. We have all seen the map produced on August 14 by the Department of Public Works, included in Attachment 1G - Basin Conditions, page 6, displaying the most recent data on the basin-wide crisis. It is glaringly obvious that the ordinance covering only a portion of the basin (Attachment 2B) is inadequate to address the extent and severity of the problem.

Governance

The Public Works Staff Report on page 6, under the headings "Governance Structures" and "Next Steps - Staff Direction on Medium Term Measures", briefly mentions this topic and states, "the only expressed effort is the development of a petition for a California Water District. It is anticipated that the petition will be circulated in the coming months and, if sufficient, will be submitted to LAFCO." The Report states that, "Staff has discussed this pending action with LAFCO and will be available for further discussion in the event it is submitted." This section of the Report concludes stating, "staff will continue to provide your Board with updates in addition to responding to any other direction from your Board". Attachment 1H - Governance Options Summary contains a "Special District Comparison" table with descriptions of three types of districts: California Water District, County Water

District, Water Replenishment District. Whereas, in the former, votes are allocated "based on one vote for each dollar's worth of land or based on one vote for each acre", votes in the latter two types of districts are allocated "based on one vote for each voter residing in the district area".

County Staff is now inviting your direction on the matter of governance. It is time for the BofS to provide it. On August 6, I urged you to direct Staff to conduct research into governance options for districts which allocate votes based on the one-voter/resident - one vote method of governance; with specific emphasis on comparative efficiencies and equitability. It appears that Staff has devoted some effort pursuing the California Water District mode of governance, which allocates votes based on the value or amount of property one owns. It is not evident that Staff has devoted as much effort on the one-person/resident - one-vote method of governance.

It is now time for the BofS to direct Staff to conduct extensive and comparative research into governance models and their relative effectiveness in managing groundwater resources and relative representativeness of basin overlayers. The BofS should direct Staff to devote particular efforts to exploring the most democratic forms of basin governance. The 8-27-13 Staff Reports indicate that Staff has spent more time on the formation of the oligarchic form of basin rule as proposed by vintners and large land owners, e.g., PRAAGS. It is the responsibility of the BofS to steer Staff in the right direction, not only the one pushed by those with the deepest pockets.

David Broadwater
Atascadero



Fw: BoS hearing, August 27, 2013, Item 13

Board of Supervisors to: BOS_Legislative Assistants,
cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/23/2013 02:31 PM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/23/2013 02:31 PM -----

From: Carole Hansen <signysgram@wildblue.net>
To: BoardofSup@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 08/23/2013 02:27 PM
Subject: BoS hearing, August 27, 2013, Item 13

Please enter this letter into the record for Tuesday's hearing.

Dear SLO County Board of Supervisors:

I am resident of rural Paso Robles and I am writing to you concerning the current water crisis in North County.

It seems to me that the facts show that the groundwater basin is in decline and has been for quite some time. You have a duty to protect this resource and a responsibility to the people who elected you. There needs to be a "time out" for the short term so that a long term solution to this problem can be worked out. Too many wells are going dry!

I implore you to immediately adopt an urgency ordinance that will apply to the entire basin!

Thank you,
Carole Hansen

Paso Robles, CA 93446